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# NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 28, 1958

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Medical Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I appreciate your sharing with me your worries with respect to the microbiological contamination of the moon surface if man persists in his success in launching vehicles to outer space. I would suggest that either you, or preferably the Society of Microbiologists, should get up a letter, patterned after your mimeographed sheet to the following individuals: Lloyd Berkner, Vice-Chairman of the International Geophysical Year; Alan T. Waterman, Director, National Science Foundation; Detlev Bronk, President, National Academy of Sciences, and Chairman, National Science Board; James Killian, Chairman, Science Advisory Committee; Wallace Brode, Office of the Science Advisor, State Department; the President of the International Union of Biological Sciences and the corresponding chairman of the microbiological subunit.

I believe with you that the problem you raise is of sufficient importance that you and your professional group should bring the issues to the attention of those individuals listed above.

Sincerely yours,

*WV*

William V. Consolazio  
Program Director  
Molecular Biology